

## MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, KY.

MAY 26, 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4676]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4676) to accept the cession by the Commonwealth of Kentucky of exclusive jurisdiction over the lands embraced within the Mammoth Cave National Park, to authorize the acquisition of additional lands for the park in accordance with the act of May 25, 1926 (44 Stat. 635), to authorize the acceptance of donations of land for the development of a proper entrance road to the park, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

Additional facts concerning this proposed legislation are carried in reports of the Department of the Interior to the chairman of the Committee on the Public Lands of the House of Representatives, and to Congressman Beverly M. Vincent, which reports are hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, July 25, 1941.

Hon. J. W. ROBINSON,  
Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,  
House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This Department is appreciative of the opportunity of submitting, in response to your request, a report on H. R. 4676, entitled "A bill to accept the cession by the Commonwealth of Kentucky of exclusive jurisdiction over the lands embraced within the Mammoth Cave National Park; to authorize the acquisition of additional lands for the park in accordance with the act of May 25, 1926 (44 Stat. 635); to authorize the acceptance of donations of land for the development of a proper entrance road to the park; and for other purposes."

I recommend that H. R. 4676 be enacted, as the enactment of this proposed legislation would constitute one of the final steps in the establishment of the Mammoth Cave National Park.

H. R. 4676 has three main purposes. The first purpose is to provide for the acceptance by the Federal Government from the Commonwealth of Kentucky

of exclusive jurisdiction over the park. The March 22, 1930, act of the general assembly of the Commonwealth, which provides for the ceding of jurisdiction over the park lands to the United States, requires acceptance by the Federal Government. Section 10 of the pending bill provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the Governor of the Commonwealth that the United States assumes police jurisdiction over the park. Additional provisions with regard to Federal jurisdiction over the park, as well as for the protection and administration of the park generally and the enforcement of the laws and regulations applicable to the park, are contained in the first nine sections of the bill. These provisions are essentially the same as those in other national park legislation heretofore enacted by Congress for the purposes in question. Consequently, the proposed legislation would carry out a policy which has become well established by the Congress and which has been found by this Department to be effective in promoting efficient administration of national parks.

The second purpose of the proposed legislation would be accomplished under the provisions of section 11 of the bill. Section 11 provides for the acquisition, for national park purposes, of any property within the maximum boundaries of the park as prescribed by the act of May 25, 1926 (44 Stat. 635). No additional expense in the acquisition of this property would be involved as the property would be acquired out of the annual revenues from the park which are in excess of the annual appropriation for the administration, protection, and maintenance of the park.

The third purpose of the proposed legislation is provided for in section 12 of the bill, which would authorize the acceptance of donated properties for the purpose of developing an appropriate entrance road to the park. The road would connect the south side of the park with United States Highway 31-W at a point to be selected by the Secretary of the Interior. The exact location of the road would be determined after proper surveys have been made by this Department. The existing means of entering the park are by roads low in standard, poor in scenic preservation, and not so located as to be directional for those entering the park either from the west or from the east via United States Highway 31-W. The scenic nature of the park area proper and the investment of the Federal Government in the area are such as to justify the protection of the approach to the park from undignified and unsightly developments.

I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that Bureau to the presentation of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,  
Washington, February 23, 1942.

HON. BEVERLY M. VINCENT,  
*House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. VINCENT: Reference is made to the discussion of Assistant Chief Counsel D. E. Lee and myself with you in your office last week with respect to H. R. 4676, which, it is understood, will be considered by the House Committee on the Public Lands tomorrow.

We have considered further the points made by you during our discussion and can see no objection to striking out of the bill the remainder of the paragraph on page 8, line 2, commencing with the words "Any moneys deposited in said fund". After all, if legislation is enacted authorizing the accumulation of a special fund of not to exceed \$350,000 for acquisition of the desired inholdings, subsequent appropriations would be necessary.

In accordance with your suggestion that a provision be added to section 12 to reassure Representative Creal with respect to the entrance road, this Service would interpose no objection to addition of the following proviso at the end of section 12: "Provided, That only one such entrance road shall be established between U. S. Highway No. 31-W and Mammoth Cave National Park pursuant to this Act".

It is hoped that with the amendments herein outlined it will be possible to secure a favorable report on H. R. 4676 from the House Committee on the Public Lands.

Sincerely yours,

NEWTON B. DRURY, *Director.*